

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 9-15 and 20-23 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-4 are rejected.

Claims 5-8 are objected to.

Claims 16-19 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-8 and 16-19 have been cancelled.

Submission of a Request for Correct Filing Receipt

Applicants attach to the Response to Office Action a copy of a request for corrected filing receipt. Applicants had previously submitted a request for a corrected filing receipt seeking to correct misspellings in the inventors' names addresses, etc. Applicants believe this previous request was not entered. Additionally it has recently come to Applicants' attention that the foreign priority date listed on the original data sheets shows the priority year as 2001, when it actually should be 1999. Applicants have submitted to the correct mail stop a second request for corrected filing receipt for all the corrections mentioned above. However, since Applicants believe this response will move this case to allowance, Applicants wish to bring this matter to the Examiner's attention by supplying him with a copy of the request for corrected filing receipt.

Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objected to the drawings asserting that they fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the reference character 61 that was disclosed on page 10 of the specification. Applicants have reviewed the drawings and respectfully submits a corrected for Fig. 4 which now includes a reference character 61. Support for this drawing amendment can be found in the specification on page 10 where it is stated that “[a] spring 61 is used to force the clutch plate 60 into contact with the gear shaft 57.” See page 10, paragraph [045]. Fig. 4 clearly shows a spring that contacts clutch plate 60 to cause them to contact the gear 57; therefore, the amendment to the drawings labeling the spring element 61 is clearly supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be removed.

Rejection of Claims 1-3 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,322,221 to Van de Loo. In order to move this case to issue, and without admitting or denying that claims 1-3 are patentable over Van de Loo, Applicants have elected to cancel claims 1-3. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) has been overcome by the cancellation of claims 1-3.

Rejection of Claim 4 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,322,221 to Van de Loo. In order to move this case to issue, and without admitting or denying that claim 4 is patentable over Van de Loo, Applicants have elected to cancel claim 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully requests that the rejection be removed and that this case move forward to allowance.

Claim Objections

The Office Action indicated that claims 5-8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants kindly thank Examiner for indicating that claims 5-8 are allowable. Applicants have previously presented claims 20-23 which represent the allowable matter contained in claims 5-8; therefore, Applicants now cancel claims 5-8 in order to move this case to issue.

Allowable Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 9-15 and 20-23 are allowed. Applicants submit that only allowable claims are now pending, therefore, allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

This response is submitted in response to a final office action. The Applications submit that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, or

alternatively, better form for appeal. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the above amendments and remarks the claims as amended, are patentably distinguishable because the cited patents, whether taken alone or in combination, do not teach, suggest or render obvious, the present invention. Therefore, Applicants submit that the pending claims are properly allowable, which allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 364-4300 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

WARN, HOFFMANN, MILLER & LALONE, P.C.
Attorneys for Applicants

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By: 

Philip R. Warn
Reg. No. 32775

P.O. Box 70098
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
(248) 364-4300

PRW:GLO:cah

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 4. This sheet, which includes Fig. 4, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet